

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE


Inspector of Nuisances

TO THE

EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

MANN BROS., Printers,
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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
TO THE
EARS DON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



EARS DON,

APRIL, 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Earsdon Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to forward you my Report for the twelve months ending
31st December, 1920.

POPULATION.

The population of the District, according to the census of
1911, was 10,570, and estimated to the middle of 1920, is 10,374.

Earsdon Township	...	...	...	3,900
Backworth Township	...	...	...	2,020
Holywell Township	...	...	...	3,284
Murton Township	...	...	...	1,170
				<hr/>
				10,374

AREA.

The total area of the District is 4,711 acres.

BIRTHS.

354 births have been registered in the District, being an increase of 58 compared with last year. These are apportioned as follows:—

							Illegitimate.			
	Males.		Females.		Total.		M.		F.	
Earsdon Township	...	70	...	59	...	129	...	2	...	4
Backworth Township	...	34	...	26	...	60	...	2	...	1
Holywell Township	...	39	...	61	...	100	...	1	...	5
Murton Township	...	30	...	35	...	65	...	2	...	4
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>			<hr/>		<hr/>
	173		181		354			7		14

These births give a birth rate at 35·19 per 1,000 per annum, calculated upon a population of 10,374 for birth rate, as supplied by Registrar General, an increase of 6·71 of that of last year.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths, after adding residents who have died outside the District and deducting non-residents, is 159, which gives a death rate of 15·32, a decrease of 1·99 on that of last year. These deaths are apportioned as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Earsdon Township ...	40	14	54
Backworth Township ...	18	13	31
Holywell Township ...	20	28	48
Murton Township ...	13	13	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	91	68	159

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.					Males. Females.		
All Causes (Civilians only)	...	...	...	...	91	...	68
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Diphtheria and croup	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	6	...	3
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	7	...	9
Tuberculous meningitis	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	4	...	3
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Organic heart disease	...	...	...	...	5	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	9	...	7
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	2	...	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	6	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	2	...	—
Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
Congenital debility, etc.	...	...	...	...	8	...	5
Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	...	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	29	...	18
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	1	...	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	Total			...	23	...	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
Total Births	...	...	...	...	173	...	181
Legitimate...	...	...	...	...	166	...	167
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7	...	14

Population for Birth rate, and }
 Population for Death rate ... } 10,374.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

There have been 14 deaths from Zymotic Disease.

Whooping cough	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	2
Diarrhœa and enteritis	...	7 (under 2 years)	
			<hr/> 10

which gives a death rate of $\cdot 96$ per 1000 per annum, an increase of $\cdot 25$ from last year.

PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).

There have been 16 deaths from Phthisis, which give a death rate of $1\cdot 54$ per 1000 per annum, an increase of $\cdot 14$ of last year. These are allocated to the following Townships:—

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Earsdon	...	...	...	2	3	5
Backworth	...	...	...	2	1	3
Holywell	...	...	...	2	3	5
Murton	...	...	...	1	2	3
				<hr/> 7	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 16

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

26 deaths have occurred from these diseases, which give a rate of $2\cdot 5$ per 1000 per annum, an increase of $1\cdot 48$ upon that of last year.

INFLUENZA.

9 deaths resulted from the epidemic of influenza, giving a death rate of $\cdot 86$ per 1000, a decrease of $1\cdot 04$ of last year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There have been 33 deaths of children under 1 year, an increase of 5 from last year, which give a mortality rate of $93\cdot 22$ per 1000 births, a decrease of $1\cdot 37$ from last year.

		Number of Deaths.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
Earsdon Township	...	8	1	9
Backworth Township	...	4	2	6
Holywell Township	...	6	4	10
Murton Township	...	5	3	8
		—	—	—
		23	10	33

These deaths arose from the following causes:—

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Debility from birth	...	6	2	8
Enteritis ...	...	7	1	8
Bronchitis	...	—	1	1
Whooping cough	...	1	—	1
Premature Birth	...	6	4	10
Tubercular disease	...	1	—	1
Convulsions	...	2	—	2
Hemorrhage	...	—	1	1
Septic ulceration	...	1	—	1
		—	—	—
		24	9	33

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

102 cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year, a decrease of 223 upon last year. These are allocated to the following townships:

		Earsdon.	Backworth.	Holywell.	Murton.	Total.
Diphtheria	...	8	8	7	1	24
Tuberculosis of lungs	...	3	2	5	—	10
„ (other forms)		—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet fever	...	14	7	16	4	41
Erysipelas	...	1	1	2	—	4
Ophthalmia neonatorum		1	1	2	1	5
Continued fever	...	—	—	1	—	1
						—
Pneumonia	...	5	3	7	1	16
		—	—	—	—	—
		32	22	41	7	102

Every infected house was visited. The headmasters of each school in the district were notified and requested to exclude all children from infected houses.

Influenza was also prevalent, but was of a less severe type, 9 deaths having occurred. Every precaution was taken by the Sanitary Authority, and leaflets with instructions were issued to every house in the district.

Of the 102 cases of infectious diseases notified, 47 were sent to the Scaffold Hill Hospital.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied free by the Council and has been made use of by local Practitioners.

Bacteriological Aids for diagnosis have been taken advantage of, specimens being sent to the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Tubercular cases have been notified by local Practitioners, and many have taken advantage of the facilities given for Sanatorium treatment by the County Council.

The majority of Venereal patients are taking advantage of the treatment at the special hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

One case of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred, and was sent to Newcastle Infirmary.

HOUSING (see table attached).

The principal part of the population of the district are employed in coal-mining, and live in houses provided by the coal companies. Many of these houses are of an old type and are only provided with ashpit and privy accommodation, many of the ashpits being uncovered. The other portion of the population live in houses provided by private enterprise, mostly of the flat type of house (one tenant up-stairs and one tenant down), and have ash closet accommodation.

Over-crowding is prevalent throughout the whole area, and it is estimated that 500 to 600 houses are required to meet the shortage. 254 tenants have more than two occupants per room, and the number of houses intended for one family only, which are now occupied (without being specially adapted) by two or more families, is 110.

The chief causes for this overcrowding are the facts (1) That no new houses have been built during the war. (2) That the sons and daughters who have got married are taken by their parents to live with them until such times as they can get houses. (3) That this district being a flourishing industrial one, where plenty of work can be obtained, many people are tempted to take in lodgers who have no accommodation for them. These conditions could not be remedied, owing to the difficulty of finding alternative accommodation, owing to the lack of houses.

The general character of the defects found in the present unfit houses are dampness, due to the ground floors being below the level of the ground, and defective spouting, bad ventilation, low ceilinged rooms, and the upper floors mostly attics.

A commencement has been made with the erection of 230 at Backworth Village on 23·75 acres of land which has been compulsorily acquired for the purpose. Some of these houses (10 to the acre) are semi-detached, and the majority are of the parlour type, provided with bath and water closets. The ground has been properly sewered and laid out for the purpose.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics for Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	10,374
(2) General death-rate	15·32
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	1·54
(4) Infantile mortality	93·22
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes ...	2,184
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses ...	2,088
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	—

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	341
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	673
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	210
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	276

II.—Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	250
--	-----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	6
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 38
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—
- (a) by owners 38
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil.

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made nil.
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders nil.

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b). Part II., of the Act of 1890:—

- (1) Name of Area Parts of whole District.
- (2) Acreage about 1 acre.
- (3) Number of working-class houses in area 38
- (4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced 190

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 nil.

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging has been done by the Council's own workmen and has been more satisfactory than in previous years when the work was let by contract. The refuse is utilised as manure by the various farmers in the district.

71 earth closets have been substituted to replace the large uncovered ashpits.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. It has been of good quality and the supply has been excellent.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage has been satisfactory. The irrigation ground and sewage disposal grounds at Holywell are in good order, and have been working satisfactorily. The sewage from other parts of the district is carried to the sea. A new sewer has been laid to the new building estate at Backworth.

LIGHTING.

The lighting in the Seaton Terrace part of the Holywell township is by electricity. The other parts of the district are lighted automatically by gas lamps.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 6 factories and 21 workshops in the district. These have been inspected and are now in good order.

Inspection of factories and workshops, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors of Nuisances—

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	6	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	21	—	—
Total ...	27	1	—

ALLOTMENTS.

500 Allotments are provided throughout the district for the workmen.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 9 slaughter-houses in the district, which have been regularly inspected and found in good order.

Bye-laws have not yet been adopted for the regulation of these premises.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

TAYLOR DIXON,

Medical Officer of Health,

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.



EARSDON,

APRIL, 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Earsdon Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Only one house has been erected during the year.

71 Ash closets have been erected in place of uncovered ashpits, and privies, 42 at Seaton Terrace, 2 at Holywell Village, 2 at West Holywell, 6 at East Holywell, 15 at Shiremoor, and 4 at Backworth.

HOUSING SCHEME.

The award has been received as to the Land for the Backworth Building Scheme taken by compulsory power from His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, the price to be paid is £3,231 for 23·75 acres. Good progress has been made with the sewers and streets, the contract price for same was £11,993. A start has also been made with the erection of 20 houses of the "Dorloncò" Type, at the cost of £19,548 4s. 2d. and the erection of 8 Bungalows of the "Somerville" Type, at the cost of £6,456. Owing to the increased cost of labour and materials since the Contract was entered into, this price will be considerably increased. In the early part of 1921, several of these houses will be ready for occupation.

There are a very large number of applications for the houses. It is intended to erect 230 on this site, and tenders have been received for the erection of the remainder.

The Council is negotiating for other sites in the area. This scheme, when completed, will considerably reduce the overcrowding in the area.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Owing to the very high cost and the difficulty of obtaining a suitable contractor for the work of re-laying the sewer from East Holywell, this was postponed. This work ought to be taken at once.

100 yards of drain have been laid at Earsdon to connect the Mansion House to the main sewer.

300 yards of 9" sewer have been laid from Backworth Village to the new Building Estate at the cost of £425 8s. 9d.

850 yards of 9" and 240 yards of 6" sewers have been laid on the Backworth Village Building Estate, also about 70 yards of defective drains have been taken up and re-laid in the district.

ROADS AND STREETS.

No new street improvements were undertaken by the Council. The Church Pit and Backworth Lane roads have been widened and improved.

WATER SUPPLY.

Township.	Estimated Population.		Gallons.		Average Consumption per head per day.	
Earsdon	...	4,025	...	20,863,000	...	14·2
Holywell	...	3,437	...	10,684,000	...	8·4
Backworth	...	2,255	...	8,690,000	...	10·5
Murton	...	1,283	...	4,121,000	...	8·8
		<hr/> 10,900 <hr/>				

The average consumption for the whole district has been 10·15 gallons per head per day, as against 10·1 gallons last year.

The total consumption of water for all purposes in the district has been 51,549,000 gallons.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 21 Workshops and 6 Factories entered on the Register. These were inspected 4 times during the year, and with one exception, were found to be in good order. A Notice from the Factory Inspector with respect to the Sanitary Conveniences at one of the Factories, the owner of which has carried out the improvements.

SCAVENGING.

The whole of the Scavenging is done by the Council's own workmen, and with very few exceptions, the work has been carried out satisfactorily. Often there is a very great difficulty with respect to deposit for the refuse.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

102 cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified during the year, as against 282 last year, a decrease of 180 cases: 41 Scarlet Fever, 24 Diphtheria, 4 Erysipilas, 1 Continued Fever, and 16 Pneumonia. 47 cases were removed to Hospital. The home where each case occurred was visited, and removal to Hospital recommended.

Wherever possible, the houses were fumigated. A new Steam Disinfector has been erected at the Hospital for the disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., also a Motor Ambulance has been provided at the Hospital for the speedy removal of patients to Hospital.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 9 Slaughter Houses in the district, these are inspected periodically. Several notices have been given as to lime washing, etc. Bye-laws for these ought to be adopted.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

26 Cowsheds and 2 Purveyors of Milk are registered. The premises have been inspected from time to time, and found in good order. 3 notices have been given with regard to lime washing.

ALLOTMENTS.

3½ acres at West View, Earsdon, were taken by compulsory power from the Duke of Northumberland.

There are 533 allotments in the district. A good deal of fencing and road making has been carried out at the different allotments.

LIGHTING.

The Seaton Terrace part of the district is lighted by Electricity, power being supplied by the Co-operative Society.

The other parts of the area are lighted by gas lamps. Gas is supplied by the Tynemouth Gas Company. The Council intend erecting a further number of gas lamps in the area. There are 190 gas lamps in the district.

All the gas lamps are lighted automatically.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 8 Fried Fish and Chip Potato Shops in the district, this being the only offensive trade carried on in the area. These are inspected from time to time. No complaints were received from any of the residents in the neighbourhood.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

2 Licences to store Petrol for sale were granted during the year.

Name of District— EARS DON. Population— 11,000. Name of Inspector— J. R. MacMILLEN	Housing						Water Supply		Drainage			Sanitary Conveniences			Dairies & Cowsheds	Slaughter-houses	Common Lodging Houses	Offensive Trades	Bakehouses	Other workshops	Nuisance from keeping of Animals.	Paving of yards	Other nuisances	TOTALS	
	Structural Defects	Nuisances	Overcrowding	Unfit for Human Habitation	Defective Spouting	Dampness	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	Foul	Untreated or Dilapidated	Insufficient	Structural defects	Insufficient	Foul											
Number of inspections made ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	338
Number of defects or contraventions of bye-laws found	45	29	50	...	22	7	...	12	26	15	...	28	5	15	26	36	...	...	8	4	6	1	6	4	341
Number of defects etc., outstanding from previous year ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Number of informal notices by inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Number of defects or contraventions remedied after informal notice ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Number of statutory notices served by Local Authority ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of defects or contraventions remedied after statutory notice	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

WORK EFFECTED.

PRIVY ASHPITS—

Abolished	...	...	...	59
Roofed over	}	...	...	30
Repaired				
W. C's. substituted	...	...	...	—
Ash Closets substituted	...	...	...	71

DRAINAGE—

New Drains provided	...	...	100 yards
Defective Drains relaid	...	...	70 „
Defective Drains repaired	...	...	6
New Traps provided	...	...	—
Inspection Chambers provided	...	...	4

WATER SUPPLY—

Wells closed	...	...	...	—
Piped supplies provided	...	...	...	—
Number of Houses affected	...	...	...	—

DISINFECTION—

Houses disinfected	...	...	...	74
Schools	...	...	...	3

UN SOUND FOOD—

Seized	...	...	...	...	—
Surrendered	...	...	...	...	—

RIVER POLLUTION—

Instances remedied	...	...	...	—
S. D. Works provided	...	...	...	—

OTHER MATTERS—

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. R. MacMILLÉN, M.S.I.A.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

